

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Table of Context

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| PREFACE .....                                     | 1     |
| INTRODUCTION .....                                | 3-10  |
| MISCONCEPTIONS .....                              | 11-20 |
| THE PATH TO GOD THE FATHER .....                  | 21-25 |
| THE WAY TO GOD THE FATHER .....                   | 26-32 |
| THE TRUTH .....                                   | 33-40 |
| THE LIFE .....                                    | 41-48 |
| WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT ..... | 49-55 |
| WHAT HAS CHANGED FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT .....     | 56-63 |
| CONCLUSION .....                                  | 64-69 |

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## ***PREFACE***

The oceans of technology at our disposal have removed all the constraints that usually keep our identity concealed. There was a technique employed in the past to identify a person; this has been systematically eroded from the world. Our generation of people cannot perceive this method because life has become too superficial. We have become masters of darting from one personality to the next. We all have names given to us at birth and as we grow older - we create a unique signature and carry a form of identity card. We also have passwords and usernames to log into our various gadgets and to access sites we visit online.

The one form of identification that portrays the person within us has been devalued over the generations. Today a person can hardly be identified using this method. Character means nothing to the majority of us today. The important principles that underpin the values of life and the truth have been scorned at because vileness is exalted amongst the inhabitants of the Earth.

To be identified by your character is the most profound trait any of us can develop if it aligns with the truth. The use of the phrase: 'this person is a good person,' is common in our generation. But according to whose standard of good? Who is the judge of our standard of good if we cannot tell the motives in the heart of others?

God gave His people standards which they should uphold at all times. The people of God are expected to be identified by the standards God has set and they are called by the name Israel, but this only happens in circles where the values God established are being upheld. However, even amongst them, there are divisions. Who are those called by this name today?

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter One

### INTRODUCTION

We live in a society which is identified by classes. People are generally identified by the position they hold: their level of education, background, race, culture, religious beliefs, hobbies and more. If you are not in one of these groups of people you are classified as an alien. The majority of these people hold the belief that anyone who is not a part of their congregation has no knowledge of their ideology and therefore cannot be grafted into the group if they hold any ideas contrary to their beliefs. This practice is very common with the many denominations of churches springing up in every corner of the world, who claim to hold knowledge of the truth of the word of God which no one else understands. But is that so? Is knowledge of the truth something we gain by our own intelligence or is it something much deeper than our shallow minds can ever comprehend? If knowledge of the truth is something we gain through intelligence, why is it that the truth is still alien to the most intelligent minds in the world? Why are the leaders of the world, and most importantly of these churches, so far from the basic fundamental principles that govern life on Earth and the word of the God that created us?

Consider this analogy: a father, who has an awesome inheritance for his children in the future, sets his laws and commandments as a path to guide his children to live a peaceful life and to keep order so they can deal justly with one another. These laws and commandments were also established as a strategy to develop a good character by which his children would be identified from the others. Furthermore, it underpinned the only path through which they could qualify for their inheritance. He also gave them the consequences of not keeping his laws and commandments. But his children scorned and derided the commandments of their father and went about to establish their own path to their inheritance.

The father was indignant and after issuing a series of warning to his children, he decided to disown those who did not heed his commandments and threw them out of his house. With the passing of time, those that were left in his house began to disregard his laws and commandments in the same manner as their siblings. Once again, after a series of warnings, the father threw his children out of his house again - this time leaving his house desolate.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

At an appointed time, the father decided to open up his house again to all those who will obey his laws and commandments. He re-established his laws and commandments and established a school with a teacher - to teach the father's children the new and only path to their inheritance. This teacher provided the required components necessary to keep the laws and commandments that their father had already established. Moreover, the teacher opened the path to everyone who wanted to be part of the father's house and made himself available to answer any questions anyone might have concerning the requirements to be a part of the father's house.

The children grew in number and became prosperous because of the father's blessings on them. They once again began to set up for themselves teachers who had no knowledge of the requirements of their father and did not go to the teacher appointed by their father.

Now consider:

- Did the father or the teacher change the path to the children's inheritance?
- Did the father or the teacher make void the law and commandments that were established from the beginning?
- Did the teacher not provide all the necessary components required to keep the father's laws and commandments?
- Did the Father or the teacher change the name of his house and call it by another name?
- Did the teacher not establish a school with teachers and make himself available to instruct and answer any questions?
- Was it not the children who decided not go to the school the teacher had established and went about establishing their own path to their inheritance?

In the Old Testament, the people of God were identified as the children of Israel and God called Himself the Holy One of Israel. In one prophecy, the Lord Jesus Christ was called Israel, but the frequency of the use of the name Israel was greatly reduced in the New Testament. So, what do we say - is God no longer the God of Israel or are His people no more the children of Israel? Many have said that we are under a new covenant and the Old Testament has been made redundant, but is that so? Are we not in a similar situation to

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

that of the Pharisees - who thought that they were wise and understood the Holy Scriptures but were called blind guides by the Lord?

The word of God is not complex, but the majority of so-called scholars are complicating what they do not understand - leading those who have put their trust in them into error. What they do not realise is that it is the Lord who provides the understanding of His word.

### **Proverbs 8:8-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>*All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.*

<sup>9</sup>*They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.*

<sup>10</sup>*Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; <sup>11</sup>For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

Moreover, it is the Lord who gives wisdom, understanding and knowledge to His servants. But the key to unlock understanding and knowledge is to follow the instructions given and then you will be rewarded with the spirits of wisdom, understanding and knowledge.

### **Proverbs 14:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>*A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, But knowledge is easy to him who understands.*

Knowledge of the truth comes easy to those whose understanding has been opened to the truth. The root cause of why the Scrips and Pharisees of our generation have no knowledge and do not understand the truth is astonishingly simple. It is because they have been deceived to believe that they do not have to obey the instructions of the Lord.

### **Psalm 111:10** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.*

Understanding the word of God is intrinsic with obeying His commandments. To obey is to remember to do the commandments of God, even in the face of trials. If we have entrusted others to teach us the words of God but they do not obey the laws and commandments of God themselves, how can we expect them to have any understanding of the truth?

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

There is a natural connection between Israel, the people of God in the Old Testament and the church the Lord Jesus Christ built. To make it even more interesting, the Lord has added the woman of the book of Revelation chapter twelve and the Body of Christ. What is the connection between these four sets of people mentioned in the Holy Scriptures to us today and with what can they be identified with? Before we proceed any further, it is vital to establish a solid foundation in order to remove any misconception which could lead to error on this topic. You will marvel by the simplicity of these findings and be astonished by the grave consequences of misunderstanding the critical link between Israel of the Old Testament and the church the Lord Jesus Christ built.

### THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

When God called Abraham, He made a covenant with him and blessed him and said through his seed the whole world be blessed. That covenant was further re-established when the Lord asked Abraham to offer up his only son as a burnt offering to the Lord. As he was about to perform the Lord's command, the Lord stopped him.

#### **Genesis 22:15-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— <sup>17</sup> blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." <sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.*

We have to understand that no angel in heaven is capable of blessing Abraham in this manner except the Lord. This passage of Scripture unveils the identity of who was dealing with Abraham and his descendants in the Old Testament. The Lord appeared to the son that Abraham offered to Him – Isaac.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Genesis 26:2-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. <sup>3</sup>Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. <sup>4</sup>And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; <sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Isaac was blessed by the Lord because his father Abraham had followed the word of God. If the laws and commandments came through Moses, then what laws and commandment did Abraham keep which qualified him to be called the friend of God?

Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Just as the Lord changed Abraham's name from Abram - He changed Jacob's name to Israel. The covenant the Lord had made with Abraham passed on through Isaac to Jacob (Israel) - who had twelve sons who became the children of Israel. Due to a famine - Israel went to sojourn in Egypt with his son Joseph, who the Lord had sent into Egypt to prepare a place for His people.

At the appointed time, God sent His servant Moses to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt to fulfil the promise He had made with their fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We have to acknowledge the fact that the word of God was not written on scrolls during that period of time but was passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth and their actions.

### **Exodus 6:2-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup>And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them. <sup>4</sup>I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. <sup>5</sup>And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. <sup>6</sup>Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. <sup>7</sup>I will take you as My people, and I

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.’ ”*

The Lord, through His servant Moses, gave the children of Israel His laws, commandments, precepts, statutes and judgements, which they were to keep in the land He promised to their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These were given on the day of Pentecost.

### **Deuteronomy 30:15-20** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup> in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

After the death of Moses, the Lord instructed Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the land He had promised to their fathers.

### **Joshua 1:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. <sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

Moses had prophesied that amongst the children of Israel the Lord will raise a prophet like him and everyone in the house of Israel should listen to Him. As we now know that prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Acts 3:22-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>22</sup> For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'*

This is the fact that the majority of us fail to understand. Whoever will not hear the Lord Jesus Christ will be destroyed. The prophet Isaiah was inspired to expound on what Moses had said:

**Isaiah 9:6-7** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

The child, on whose shoulders the government of the world was placed, was the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, God proposed to add the Gentiles to the house of Israel and the Lord Jesus Christ was to be the one to enlighten the Gentiles:

**Isaiah 42:6-7** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup> "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.*

The Lord affirmed in this prophecy of grafting in the Gentiles into the house of Israel what the requirements were for those to join themselves to the Lord when He said:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Isaiah 56:6-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> *“Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—<sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”<sup>8</sup> The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.”*

These were all prophecies which the Lord was to fulfil when He walked the Earth during His first coming. In the gospel of John, the Lord said:

### **John 10:15-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> *As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*

<sup>17</sup> *“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.*

It had always been God the father’s plan to open up His house to whoever was willing to obey His commandments, regardless of their race, colour and size. Since God the Father is Spirit, He seeks to worshiped in spirit and truth.

### **John 4:23-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

This is the most critical and profound aspect of the path to salvation by God. The Lord Jesus Christ opened the way for us to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth.

To enable both the children of Israel and the Gentiles to be able to worship the Father in spirit and truth, God offered the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins. This established a path through which it became possible to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. Sin is the wall that separates us from God.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Two

### MISCONCEPTIONS

Every nation in the world is governed by laws, which carry consequences for anyone who is caught breaking these laws. Even the gadgets we use daily come with their respective user guides on what to do and what not to do to get the best performance out of these gadgets. If it is so with items made by hands, what about the laws and commandments of the God who created us?

### THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

How can we be led to believe that the laws and commandments of God have been made redundant by the cross of Christ? Is it not a clear misunderstanding of what the Lord has said? Before we examine what the Lord has said and done so far, consider this prophecy which was given to the prophet Isaiah about what the Lord will do with the laws and commandments of God in His first coming:

#### **Isaiah 42:21-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup> The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honourable. <sup>22</sup> But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"*

The Lord came and magnified the law, making it honourable. The description of us given by the Lord is something we should also notice. We have all been robbed and plundered of the truth, held in prisons and no one is crying to the Lord for us to be restored. This prophecy was fulfilled when the Lord said:

#### **Matthew 5:17-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

The Lord said we should not think that He came to destroy the law or the prophet, but rather to fulfil. The understanding of this passage of Scripture has been taken out of context

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

to mean something completely different based on the word fulfil. Fulfil is to make it more honourable and more binding, not to destroy the law and the prophets. The Lord went on to amplify the commandments of God, making them obligatory:

### **Matthew 5:21-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*

We can learn as we grow older that it is wrong to kill and are able to keep that commandment. But it is extremely difficult for us to be able to forgive others who have done us wrong. The Lord extended the threshold of the laws and commandments of God by changing them from a physical to a spiritual entity.

### **Matthew 5:27-30** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

The above passage of Scripture emphasises the fact that the Lord magnified the law. We can all avoid committing adultery based on what was the law before the Lord came. But now, if we lust after someone then we have already committed adultery with them in our hearts. Now we do not have to physically perform the act for it to be classified as sin. It is now an issue of the heart and the spirit. If it is conceived in our hearts it is classified as a sin - which is against God's commandments.

The question remains pending about the meaning of this passage of Scripture: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill". We

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

have to let the word of God interpret itself. Just before returning to God the Father, the Lord gave us the answer to what he meant by fulfilling the law and the prophets:

**Luke 24:44-45** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

The Lord did not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfil what was written of Him in the books of the law and the prophets, including the Psalms. The consequence of the Lord's clarification is that we must still keep the laws and commandments of God, but we must also have understanding of the truth that underpins these laws and commandments.

The majority of professing believers are in the mind-set that since we are under grace - we do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God and that if you keep the law you have fallen from grace, sighting this passage of Scripture:

**Galatians 5:1-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.*

There is a definite lack of understanding of the truth on this issue. The apostle Paul was addressing the issue of justification, which is by faith and not by keeping the commandments of God. The lack of understanding of the process of justification is the answer to this issue. To be rendered blameless by God is by faith - when we go to God and repent our sins. It is not by keeping the laws and commandments of God. In this particular congregation, some were saying you have to be circumcised to be justified by God. It is for this reason why Paul said if anyone including us today should attempt to be justified by a law of God, which in this case was circumcision, then you have fallen from the grace of God.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

If that was the case then you are bound to keep perfectly every single law - which no man has been capable of doing except the Lord Jesus Christ. Justification can never be by what we have done but by faith.

### **James 2:8-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

This passage of Scripture is also quoted by those who insist that the laws and commandments of God have been fulfilled and we do not have to keep them. If we are justified and are empowered by the Spirit of God - we must keep His commandments. If we fall short in any way we have still transgressed the law. But we have the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our advocate before God the Father. If we should confess our sins, He will forgive us.

### **1 John 1:9-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

We have not been given the licence to sin. The Lord also knows that we are going to fall at some stage, so we must therefore confess our sins so that we can be forgiven.

### **1 John 2:1-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

*<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

### **Romans 3:28-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Justification is by faith and not by the law. But when we have been justified by faith do we go on breaking the very laws and commandments which were the root cause of what led us to repentance? Please consider this for a moment.

We have fallen short of the glory of God because we did not keep His commandments. For this reason we killed the Lord Jesus Christ. By His blood we have been set free because He paid the price fully when we killed Him. We sent Him to the cross and His body was so marred that He was unrecognisable:

### **Isaiah 52:13-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. <sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

Should we then carry on in sin? God forbid. If we have not set our minds to refrain from transgressing the laws and commandments of God, then we have not understood the reason for repentance.

## REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

The vast majority of those who hold the belief that the church has replaced Israel as the people of God are short-sighted and have no understanding of what the Lord meant when He made this statement:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Matthew 16:13-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" <sup>14</sup> So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We have to establish the facts. It is not about what beliefs men hold but what has been established by God according to this passage of Scripture. The Lord asked His disciples who men thought He was and also asked His disciples who they believed He was. When Peter said He was the Son of the living God, the Lord said that revelation had not come from man but from God the Father. Some now say that Peter is the rock the Lord built His church on. What ignorance. The church the Lord built is based on the revelation that comes from God the Father.

We must understand, God is a spirit and man is flesh with no understanding of spiritual things. We have all been blinded and held in prison by the god of this present age. It is by the revelation of the spiritual things which God the Father gives to His servants that forms the rock on which the Lord Jesus Christ built His church. The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

### **Galatians 1:10-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. <sup>11</sup> But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*

*<sup>15</sup> But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*

What has been given to us through the apostle Paul was not taught to him by man but by revelation that came from God. This is the standard we have to uphold. For us today, the revelation of the truth - what has been written in the Holy Scriptures - comes from the Spirit of God which dwells in us:

### **John 16:13-15 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

Consider this scary fact: if our teachers, pastors and prophets including ourselves do not have the Spirit of God, are we not going to be led astray - since the revelation of the truth can only come from the Spirit of God?

The church the Lord Jesus Christ built is founded on the revelation that comes from God. Today, that revelation comes from the Spirit of God which dwells in the servants of God. The church has not replaced Israel as the people of God. By the end of this study you will be enlightened on the reasons why this is so.

### **THE CARNAL MIND**

The people of God in the Old Testament, that is before the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, were carnal. As we know, the carnal mind is not subject to the laws and commandments of God:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Romans 8:5-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

This doesn't mean everyone then was carnal. There were those who believed and were given the Spirit of God to do the will of God, but not as we have today because the Lord had not yet fulfilled His duties given to Him by God the Father. Moses, for example, was given the Spirit of God and the Lord took from him some of the Spirit that He had put in him and gave it to the seventy elders of the children of Israel:

### **Numbers 11:16-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. <sup>17</sup>Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

It was the same when David was anointed the King of Israel. When the prophet Samuel poured oil on his head, the Spirit of God came upon him:

### **1 Samuel 16:12-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup>So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

<sup>14</sup>But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

The Spirit of God came upon all those who trusted and believed in God in the Old Testament. In other words, the Spirit of God shadowed all those who were empowered to keep the laws and commandments of God. Today, the Spirit of God is given as a free gift to all who believe and have repented. With this they become not just the people of God, as

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

they were in the days before the Lord Jesus Christ, but now they become the Sons of God. There is a difference between the Sons and children of a house but the reality is that the house of God has not been changed from the house of Israel.

### PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

When we investigate all prophecies in the Old Testament, there is nothing mentioned of the church being the children of God in the latter days. All prophecies for the end of the age concerning the people of God was addressed as the house of Israel. Within that house there is a separation between the Jews and the Israelites, which is a subject of another study. If God had changed the name of His people from the house of Israel, He would have told His prophets. God has spoken about a day when He will bring distress upon people:

#### **Isaiah 24:1-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>2</sup>Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, Distorts its surface And scatters abroad its inhabitants. <sup>2</sup>And it shall be: As with the people, so with the priest; As with the servant, so with his master; As with the maid, so with her mistress; As with the buyer, so with the seller; As with the lender, so with the borrower; As with the creditor, so with the debtor. <sup>3</sup>The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, For the LORD has spoken this word. <sup>4</sup>The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. <sup>5</sup>The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. <sup>6</sup>Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left.*

This prophecy will affect everyone alive during that period of time. We know we are the last generation on Earth, therefore this prophecy is about us. There are billions of people who profess to believe in a god. It will become quite clear that The God who has said He will bring this word to pass must be the only true God. He has also given the reasons why He will do this. It is due to the fact that so many have transgressed His laws, changed the ordinance and broken the everlasting covenant. He has also said:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Matthew 5:18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

Every word written in the books of the law and the prophets shall be fulfilled as per His word. Not a single word will fall to the ground without the Lord bringing it to pass. If heaven and Earth will not pass away but exist forever, then this is a call for concern because God will surely bring His word to pass.

### **1 Peter 4:15-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

*<sup>17</sup> For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

Being identified as a Christian qualifies you as a member of the house of God. If judgement begins at the house of God, what will happen to those who do not believe God? Our interest is to determine who is a true Christian. This passage of Scripture speaks of the house of God, which is made of Christians who are righteous. But why will the righteous, those who are in the house of God, be scarcely saved?

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Four

### THE PATH TO GOD THE FATHER

The fall of man has a greater significance on our lives than most of us can ever imagine. We know the wages of sin is death, but sin is also a wall that separates man from God. God is pure and there is no darkness in Him. For us to have a relationship with Him - we have to become pure, just as He is. When man fell, He lost the Spirit of God which enabled him to have that relationship with God. We are the offspring of a fallen man and we have all fallen short of the glory of God.

#### **Isaiah 59:2-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. <sup>3</sup> For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. <sup>4</sup> No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. <sup>5</sup> They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

It is of paramount importance that we take hold of these words and be diligent with the words we choose to listen to and read. The majority of what is being taught in the world today are empty words, full of perversity and lies. The Lord has said that those who trust in these words will surely die.

God is merciful and gracious and because of the love He has for us He also devised a well-orchestrated master plan for the salvation of mankind. That plan started bearing fruits with the call of Abraham. The Lord made a covenant with Abraham and blessed the world through His seed. As we all know, the seed of Abraham was the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Galatians 3:16** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*

When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, the promises that God made to Abraham began to manifest. As we know, the laws and commandments of God came through Moses: the servant of God; but grace and truth came through the Lord Jesus Christ:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **John 1:15-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

The Lord is the Son of God who came from God to give us the truth and the grace to empower us to do the will of God. As was mentioned earlier in this study, the Lord is the prophet Moses prophesied God would rise up from among His brethren. Whoever does not listen to this prophet will be destroyed.

### **Acts 3:22-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

The Lord said that the law and the prophets were until John. This implies that this was the cut-off point of how the kingdom of God was perceived on Earth.

### **Luke 16:14-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided him. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

<sup>16</sup> "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. <sup>17</sup> And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.

<sup>18</sup> "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

This is the point in time when the laws and commandments of God were magnified from a physical to a spiritual entity. Because of the works of the Lord Jesus Christ, the path to God

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

the Father was now opened to all who believed. When the Lord was asked - what good thing we should do to enter into life - He answered:

### **Matthew 19:16-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup> So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup> He said to Him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' <sup>19</sup> 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' "

<sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

The path to God the Father, which is also eternal life, and the kingdom of God is based on keeping the commandments. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ has said. He left no room for misunderstanding by naming the commandment that governs our relationship with our neighbours. How can some today still say we do not have to keep the commandments of God?

When the Lord was asked which is the first commandment of all, he gave this answer:

### **Mark 12:28-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

By starting with: 'Hear, O Israel', the Lord stipulated that Israel are the people of God. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and strength. From the above passages of Scripture we can establish that these are the ten commandments that form the constitution of the kingdom of God. The first four commandments underpin our relationship with God and the last six our relationship with our neighbours. The disciples were astonished because they knew it was impossible for a man to keep the commandments of God. They therefore asked the Lord who then can be saved, since no one is able to keep the commandments of God? The Lord answered them:

### **Matthew 19:25-26** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>25</sup> When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

With God, all things are possible. God has already provided the means to empower His people to be able to keep His commandments. It was for this reason why the Lord Jesus Christ declared that He is the way, the truth and the Life.

### **John 14:1-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

*<sup>7</sup> "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I*

## **ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY**

---

*Speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

The path to God the Father has been set - it is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses said hundreds of years before the Lord came into the world that we should listen and do whatever the Lord says. Now the Lord has said He is the way, the truth and the life. And most importantly - no one can go to God the Father except if they go through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is now up to us to find out the meaning of what the Lord said.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Five

### THE WAY TO GOD THE FATHER

When Adam and Eve fell, death entered the world and man became separated from God the Father. God knew that Adam and Eve would fall and the consequences. Even before God created the heavens and the Earth, He established a plan in which the Lord Jesus Christ would come into the world and establish a relationship between God and His people - which was lost when Adam and Eve fell. We have to be clear on this point - salvation has always been about God returning His people to Himself because of the love He has for them and the great potential He has stowed in them for His awesome purpose, and certainly not because of their righteousness.

When God called Moses, His servant, to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, the Lord instituted certain statutes and precepts which the children of Israel were to keep perpetually as an everlasting statute throughout their generation. The Feast of Passover among others was established, in which the children of Israel were to offer a lamb for their trespasses. This feast was to foreshadow the real Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was to be offered for the sins of the world. Remember, this was on the same day that the Lord commanded Abraham to offer his only son Isaac. Could it have been the same offering Cain and Abel had to make at the very beginning - bearing in mind that Job the servant of God made offerings for the sins of his children daily?

#### **Leviticus 23:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

<sup>3</sup>‘Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

<sup>4</sup>‘These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. <sup>5</sup>On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>6</sup>And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. <sup>7</sup>On the first day you shall have a holy

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. <sup>8</sup> But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' "*

Throughout the Holy Scriptures we come across prophecies addressing the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ had to suffer for our sins even though He did not commit any sins.

### **Isaiah 53:1-12** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him <sup>3</sup>He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup>Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

*<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

*<sup>8</sup>He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation?*

*For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken*

*<sup>9</sup>And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup>He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

There is nothing to add to this passage of Scripture since it is self-explanatory . The above passage of Scripture and all the other prophecies about the Lord's first coming were fulfilled in the New Testament when the Lord was crucified:

### **Luke 24:46-49** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

The Lord said it was necessary that He suffered and rise from the dead on the third day. He also added that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, starting in Jerusalem. This has a great significance to us today, since Jerusalem is the city of our God. It is of paramount importance that we watch what is happening in Jerusalem - as it is an indicator of the signs of the times. The end of the age will begin in Jerusalem and Judea. We have been told to watch this part of the world closely.

The Lord made a statement at the end of His ministry on Earth, saying that the Gentiles were to be included in the household of God. At the beginning of His ministry, when the Lord was addressing the house of Israel, He made a similar statement when He said:

### **Mark 1:14-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

To repent and believe the gospel is the only way to God the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord said that the appointed time has come and the kingdom of God is at hand. To be able to enter the kingdom of God, which is the place where God the Father dwells, we have to repent and believe the gospel. The complete fulfilment of this passage of Scripture came on the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God was given to man. This occurred just as God the Father had promised, when the Lord Jesus Christ had returned to God the Father after completing the duties He had set before Him.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Acts 2:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The fulfilment of the statement, "I am the way, the truth and the life," came on the day of Pentecost. It was on this day that the way to God the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, was finally perfected and God gave men the power to become the Sons of God. It started in Jerusalem with a select group of the children of Israel who had borne witness of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. This path was, and still is, the only way into the Body of Christ: the church that Christ built, the household of God. The keys to unlock the doors into the church, the Body of Christ, were given to the apostle Peter to explain:

### **Acts 2:37-39** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

*<sup>38</sup>Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

The reason we have to be baptised in the name of the Lord is because it is the Lord who died for our sins. The Lord has said that if we do not repent we will surely perish:

### **Luke 13:1-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

Repentance is the only foundation which ignites any sort of relationship with God the Father because it is the roots on which justification stems. The apostle Paul was inspired to say:

**Acts 20:18-21 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We are to repent to God, whose laws and commandments we have all broken. We must also have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who has taken our place in the wrath of God. When we repent - the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ washes away all past sins, paving the way for us to be able to appear before God. God is pure - there is no unrighteousness in Him and any impurity that comes before Him is quickly consumed. The Lord said:

**John 4:23-24 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

It is critical that we repent. Repentance leads to justification: becoming blameless in the sight of God. After the blood of Christ has washed us clean from all past sins, God the Father will give us His Spirit as we have become pure before Him. This might sound simple but it has a deeper spiritual meaning. God gives His Spirit to those whose hearts are bent on obeying Him, not to those who profess to believe and continue in their sins. There is an ocean of difference between the two.

**Acts 5:32 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>32</sup> And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

This is the fundamental purpose of the Spirit of God. We know to be carnally minded is enmity against God and cannot be subject to His laws and commandments:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Romans 8:6-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Moreover, without the faith that comes from the Spirit of God, we cannot please God because human faith wavers but the faith that comes from the Spirit of God is stable in every way. Remember faith is a fruit of the Spirit and also a gift of the Spirit:

### **Hebrews 11:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

We have to diligently seek God, not according to the precepts of men but according to the laws and commandments of God. Following the instructions set before us by the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way that will gain our entry into the church, the body of Christ, which leads to God the Father.

Incidentally, there is a difference between those who believed in the days before the sacrifice of the Lord and those after. Before the Lord was crucified, the Spirit of God came upon all those who believed in God and obeyed His commandments with their whole heart. We know the carnal mind is enmity against God and can never be subject to His laws and commandments. But after the Lord was offered for our sins there was a significant change:

### **John 14:14-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup>If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. <sup>15</sup>"If you love Me, keep My commandments <sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

The Spirit of God now dwells within those who believe and keep the commandments of God. Through repentance we become spiritually circumcised, creating a home for God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to come and dwell with us in spirit. This makes us one with them:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **John 14:20-26** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> *At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.* <sup>21</sup> *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”* <sup>22</sup> *Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”*

<sup>23</sup> *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

<sup>24</sup> *He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.* <sup>25</sup> *“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.* <sup>26</sup> *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

The only way to God the Father is through the Body of Christ, the church that Christ built. The keys to unlock the door into the Body of Christ are repentance and obedience. Thereafter, God will give His Spirit - which will dwell in the believer, making them a temple of God. Without the Spirit of God no one can be translated into the church, the Body of Christ:

### **Romans 8:9-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.* <sup>10</sup> *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* <sup>11</sup> *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

This is the way the Lord Jesus Christ has prescribed to the people of God. In the Old Testament, the people of God were identified by the name of Israel. In this examination the name of the children of God has not been changed to the church or the Body of Christ, neither has it been replaced by the church or the Body of Christ. The Lord’s sacrifice paved the way through His body, the church, for us to become the dwelling place for both the Lord and God the Father in Spirit.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Five

### THE TRUTH

The Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and life. Ironically, many profess to believe but have no understanding of what it entails. A house that is not built on solid foundations will not stand after the day of a storm, similarly anyone who professes to believe in God but has no understanding of the truth will not stand after the day of trial. The truth is in the living word of God, which has been made available to all who diligently seek the Lord.

However, there is a path to the truth and that path is established through the Lord Jesus Christ. Regardless of how intelligent anyone can be, if they are not in the Body of Christ (the church) then they can never come to the knowledge of the truth. All the so called churches of this world which have no foundation in the laws and commandments of God, but teach according to the precepts and commandments of men; have no knowledge of the truth.

Truth is adhered to on an individual basis - what we base our beliefs on. At the appointed time we will be judged by our works according to the word of truth. Not by our church affiliation or the words of our pastor, priest, guru, prophet or whoever we choose to put our trust in. If we choose to follow the Lord and put our trust in Him, we are certain to come to the knowledge of the truth that leads to life because the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth. But remember, repentance and obedience are the foundations that should underpin our belief.

In the previous chapter, we discussed the fundamental way to God the Father, which is through the Body of Christ and is only open to the house of Israel, the people of God. Similarly, the truth is only open to the church, the body of Christ, as the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth and it is He who opens our understanding to the truth. Consider this passage of Scripture:

#### **John 4:21-24 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

God is Spirit and He seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. He stipulates that we must be in spirit and understand the truth to be able to worship God the Father, not by who we are, our church affiliation or where we reside on Earth. We know that the way to acquire the Spirit of God, which empowers us to be able to worship God the Father in spirit, is through repentance as prescribed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, to be able to worship God the Father in truth we must believe and grow in the knowledge of the truth. This is a process that can take a lifetime. No one can repent and immediately begin to worship God in truth. It takes time to understand the truth. As we do - we will become aware of the requirements of how to worship in truth. Worshiping God the Father in truth hinges on convention. This is why the apostle Peter was inspired to confirm what the Lord had already said:

**Acts 3:19-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

The process we have to follow after repentance is conversion. It is for this reason why the Lord had earlier said:

**Matthew 18:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup>and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Conversion is equally as important as repentance. If we repent but do not proceed to conversion we will not enter the kingdom of God. It is only after conversion that we grow in knowledge of the truth which enables us to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. Little children listen and do as they are told if they have been properly schooled by their parents.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

This is far from the case with the people of our generation. The same is expected of all converts to the kingdom of God. There are awesome reasons why this is so:

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. <sup>18</sup> Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation*

*<sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

This passage of Scripture explains why we are to become converts like little children. In doing so we put aside our own reasoning and become open to the truth. As the apostle Paul was inspired to say - we have to become a new creature and old things will pass away; we now live for Christ who has given us a new life. Secondly, we have to renew our minds since we are new creatures:

### **Romans 12:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

We are to renew our minds to be able to do the will of God. If we do not renew our minds it will be impossible to do the commandments of God and gain valuable knowledge which would have empowered us to worship God the Father in truth. The Lord prayed to God the Father, asking Him to sanctify them by His truth.

### **John 17:16-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

The word of God is the truth and only the Lord Jesus Christ alone has the power to open our understanding to the truth.

### **Luke 24:44-45** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

It is of paramount importance to realise that without the Spirit of God we can never come to the knowledge of the truth because it is the Spirit of God which guides us into all truth.

### **John 16:13-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

The majority of professing believers have not come to the revelation that the Spirit of God has seven different facets which are essential for our edification. Consider this prophecy given through the prophet Isaiah:

### **Isaiah 11:1-2** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

These are the seven Spirits that are before the throne of God the Father which He sends into the world to empower His servants to do His will:

### **Revelation 4:5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup>And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

God gave the Lord Jesus Christ these seven Spirits to empower Him to do His will. For us, it starts with the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. It is the fear of God that leads us to repent because we come to the knowledge that we have transgressed His laws and commandments. Thereafter, we are given the Spirit of wisdom. That is why the Lord has said that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and wisdom is the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Proverbs 8:12-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup>“I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion. <sup>13</sup>The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. <sup>14</sup>Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. <sup>15</sup>By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. <sup>16</sup>By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth. <sup>17</sup>I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. <sup>18</sup>Riches and honour are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. <sup>19</sup>My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. <sup>20</sup>I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, <sup>21</sup>That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries. <sup>22</sup>“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. <sup>23</sup>I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.*

It is the Spirit of God that empowers us to be able to heed the word of God and to follow His instructions. Without the Spirit of God we can never gain access into the Body of Christ. The prophet Daniel was inspired to write:

### **Daniel 2:20-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. <sup>21</sup>And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. <sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.*

The Lord our God will only who give the Spirit of wisdom to those who have departed from evil and who have the knowledge of the truth. We have been told that to acquire the Spirit of understanding we must do the commandments of God; we must become doers of the word.

### **Psalm 111:10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.*

Worshiping God in truth must be underpinned by our understanding of the requirements of the truth and we must keep the commandments of God. Without these we cannot worship God in truth. We listen to people who do not have the Spirit of God and trust in their every word. This keeps us in bondage to sin. It is our responsibility to search the Scriptures daily to see if what they are saying is the truth. The Lord has said He will guide us into all truth through His Spirit but we have to devote the time to study His word so that we can come to the knowledge of the truth.

### **2 Timothy 2:14-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup> And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, <sup>18</sup> who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

When we strive to understand the truth, we discover that we have to depart from iniquity. If we hold on to the belief that the Lord has fulfilled the law and that we do not have to keep the commandments, how can we then depart from iniquity? If we were led to repent because we transgressed the laws and commandments of God, do we continue to

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

transgress in the belief that Christ has fulfilled the law? If you believe this to be so, then why do we have to repent?

Consider this example: one commandment of God states that we shall not kill. Is it right to kill now that Christ has fulfilled the law? God forbid. We should establish it in our lives that we shall not kill and the Spirit of God will empower us to keep the law. This is an example of the truth that we should grow in knowledge of, not according to the precepts and commandments of men.

### **2 Peter 1:1-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup>by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

<sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup>for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup>For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. <sup>13</sup>Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, <sup>14</sup>knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. <sup>15</sup>Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

## **ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY**

---

This is the foundation we have to follow. We have to grow in the truth as we are sanctified by the Spirit of God which is not just been set apart for the purpose of the Lord, it is also to come to the knowledge of the truth as we are guided by the Spirit of God. As we grow in the knowledge of the truth, we have been advised to apply this knowledge into our lives. By doing so we will never stumble.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Six

### THE LIFE

The world we live in is decaying around us at a rate faster than any of us can imagine. Ironically, there is nothing we can do to stop it because we cannot change the hearts of men. The values of life which were used in the past to identify people are now being scorned at. We all have an appointment to keep with death which no one can escape. However, there are some in our generation who will not taste death but will pass into life. What price would you pay to live forever? Life on Earth is full of labour and can sometimes be very oppressing. But there is an appointed time when this age will come to an end and the greatest honour is to be deemed worthy to be part of the next age.

We are all, including everyone who believes in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, held as prisoners until the Lord comes to bring back the captivity of His people. Although those who are in the Body of Christ have been given rest and peace, they are still in a constant battle against the pulls of this world which might cause them to stumble. There is an interesting passage of Scripture in the book of the prophet Isaiah in which the Lord is calling us to come and buy everything we need in life without money. All we have to exchange for our lives is obedience:

#### **Isaiah 55:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>*“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.*

<sup>3</sup>*Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David. <sup>4</sup>Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. <sup>5</sup>Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you.” <sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

This invitation went out hundreds of years before the Lord came into the world and the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy to perfection. The call is to all those who thirst to come and drink. We do not need money to buy the bread that gives life. The bread on offer, which we can buy without money, will delight our souls in abundance. All we have to do is to follow instructions and the Lord will greatly pardon us by making an everlasting covenant with us. But this is only for a limited time while the Lord can be found. God the Father has made it possible for us by offering the Lord for our sins. What is like bread and drink that we can buy without money which will give us life? Hopefully by the end of this chapter, it will become clear.

Every living soul has a spirit. It is the spirit that gives life to the soul. Without the spirit that soul dies. The question is - where does the spirit come from?

### **John 1:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>7</sup>This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup>That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who gives life, which is the spirit that is in everyone who comes into the world. Human parents cannot create a spirit in their offspring. God is a spirit and only God can create the spirit that gives life. Only the Lord, who gives the spirit that gives life to the sons of men, can come into the world to amend the broken relationship between God the Father and man that was caused by sin. God sent John to bear witness to the Lord.

### **John 1:29-34 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptising with water."*

*<sup>32</sup>And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup>I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

John the Baptist was given a specific sign to indicate who the Lamb of God was. In the days before the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God would come upon men but did not dwell in them. With the Lord, the Spirit of God came upon Him and dwelled in Him because of His purity.

### **John 1:10-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

It is imperative that we realise who the Lord Jesus Christ is. He is the Son of God who was with God at the very beginning before the world was created. It was through Him that all things were made. He came into the world in order to fix what man had broken and to give man the opportunity and power to become the Sons of God. This unique opportunity is only open to those who believe in Him and are obedient to His commandment. The Lord Jesus Christ testified that in this life, He will give rest to those who take on His burden and learn from Him.

### **Matthew 11:25-30** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. <sup>26</sup> Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. <sup>27</sup> All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. <sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

In this age the Lord has promised to give us rest, but in the age to come the promise is to give everlasting life to those who have qualified:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **John 4:13-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The water the Lord has promised to give freely, which will become a fountain of water springing into everlasting life, is the Spirit of God. As mentioned earlier, the Spirit of God is only given to those who have answered the call to repent. It is the Spirit of God that seals the believer until the appointed time of redemption.

### **Ephesians 1:13-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Those who repent and are converted into the body of Christ have been bought with a price. That price is the blood of Christ which washes away our sins and we are then sealed by the Spirit of God until the appointed time of redemption.

In the days of Moses, when the children of Israel were in the wilderness, God gave them 'manna' to eat, but now God has given us the true bread from heaven which we have to eat in order to have life.

### **John 6:43-51** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>43</sup> Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

The Lord emphasised what He meant when He said: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

### **John 6:53-58** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>53</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.<sup>54</sup> Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.<sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”*

The Lord’s body is food and His blood is drink. For us to have life we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. But how can that be possible? Man has translated this passage of Scripture to mean something completely different from the truth. If you are of the understanding that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb of God then you would know that the Passover is a yearly feast day of the Lord and it is during the feast of Passover that we are supposed to partake in the symbols the Lord gave us before He was crucified:

### **Luke 22:14-20** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. <sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

*<sup>19</sup> And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” <sup>20</sup> Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*

We have to understand that the Lord did not replace the Passover. The Lord is our Passover Lamb and we are commanded as believers to keep the feasts of the Lord, which begins with the Passover. In keeping the Passover we must eat unleavened bread. We are not to eat

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

anything that has been leavened during that period of time. All this is done by faith because it is impossible to please God without faith.

Please understand - it is not about what your church, pastor, prophet or whoever you are learning from has said. It is about what the Lord has commanded us to do. The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

### **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?<sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

We are to keep the feast of Passover because it is directly connected with the life which is in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you keep any other Feast days: Easter, Christmas and all the other feasts days of man, then you will have no part in Christ because those feasts have not been ordained by God. The life that is in Christ is only opened to those who keep the Passover as Christ is our Passover Lamb.

### **John 10:1-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."*

If you can hear the voice of the Lord you would know that this is the way to walk and the Lord will lead you in His path. But if you are dull of hearing then you will continue to follow those who will lead you astray because:

### **John 10:7-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

find pasture.<sup>10</sup> *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

<sup>11</sup> *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*

The Lord knows those who are His and all those who are the Lord's know His voice and will flee from deceivers. The Lord Jesus Christ testified that He is the life and the resurrection. No other man who has ever lived can make this claim. The Lord is the only one whose blood is capable of washing us from our sins because He is the Lamb of God.

### **John 11:21-27** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> *Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

<sup>25</sup> *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"<sup>27</sup> She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

The Lord died and was raised from the dead on the third day and because He is alive, he will surely resurrect all those who are His on the last day. It will not be at any time soon, as some may be led to believe, but at the appointed time of resurrection which is on the last day of this age.

### **John 6:37-40** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

All those who God the Father has given to The Lord Jesus Christ, who are in the Body of Christ - the house of God, will by no means be cast out but will be raised up into everlasting life on the last day, since the Lord is the resurrection and the life. To acquire this privilege we have to have the Spirit of God dwelling in us. If we do not have the Spirit of God we are not His:

### **Romans 8:9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

If we have the Spirit of God we must be led by the Spirit of God:

### **Romans 8:14-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Everlasting life, which is the life that the Lord Jesus Christ will give to those who believe, is in the Spirit of God that dwells in the believer. This is the Spirit of adoption into the house of God: the Body of Christ, the House of Israel. This is the way through which the Lord Jesus Christ has established to give an opportunity to the children of Israel to be able to worship God in spirit and in truth. It is the Spirit of God that will spring up on the last day into eternal life. The Lord has not replaced the people of God with the church but He has made it possible for the people of God, who in the Old Testament was the house of Israel, to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Seven

### WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED

Lack of understanding is the greatest killer in the world we live in. It has many facets attached to it with its roots firmly bedded in pride. Pride always leads to incontinence. In this state we cannot be told what is the truth. We have to realise for ourselves what state of mind we are exuding and be ready to humble ourselves, opening our minds to learn like little children. There are many things that remained the same in the New Testament from the days of the Old Testament. Consider these few:

### GOD IS THE SAME

The God of the Old Testament and that of the New Testament remains the same - full of light and purity. God the Father has always been a Spirit and He will be forever. The people of God, in the days before the Lord Jesus Christ walked the Earth, could not see God physically. This remains the same today. No one has seen God except the Lord who is back in heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father. God has said:

#### **Malachi 3:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> *“For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

Which translates in the New Testament as:

#### **Hebrews 13:7-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.* <sup>8</sup> *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* <sup>9</sup> *Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.*

The God of the Old Testament, who gave His word to the children of Israel, is the same God who became the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is proof:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **John 8:54-58** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>54</sup> *Jesus answered, "If I honour Myself, My honour is nothing. It is My Father who honours Me, of whom you say that He is your God. <sup>55</sup> Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*

<sup>57</sup> *Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"*

<sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

The Lord Jesus Christ existed before Abraham and as Scripture says - it was the Lord who sent Moses into Egypt to bring the children of Israel out of the house of bondage.

### **Matthew 5:17-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

The Lord said that He has come to fulfil what has been recorded in the Old Testament. We have to understand the difference between destroy and fulfil. When we destroy something, we render it useless. By fulfilling it we make it perfect. This means what God has said will not pass until all has been made perfect; cementing the fact that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that has proceeded out of the mouth of God. Understanding this truth is critical.

## **GOD IS STILL THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

God has not changed. If in the Old Testament He was the God of Israel and called Himself the Holy One of Israel, would He not still be the Holy One of Israel today even after the Lord's Sacrifice? Consider these words:

### **Mark 12:29-30** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

The first commandment to the people of God, as stated by the Lord Jesus Christ is, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This means that God is still the God of Israel and His people are still the children of Israel. The way to God the Father, established by Christ for the Gentiles, is through the commonwealth of Israel:

### **Ephesians 2:11-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

The Gentiles, who were aliens to the commonwealth of Israel, have now been brought near by the blood of Christ into the household of God - the house of Israel:

### **Ephesians 2:19-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

The foundation of the house of Israel is built on the apostles and prophets. The Lord Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone on whom the whole building is fitted together, creating a dwelling place for God in us in the Spirit. In other words, all those who have the Spirit of God are the house of Israel which makes God the God of Israel.

### **Romans 8:15-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

By the Spirit we are adopted into the house of God making us the children of God. We know the Children of God are joint heirs with Christ according to the promise the Lord gave to His friend Abraham:

### **Galatians 3:26-29** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

In the book of Revelation, which is about prophecies to come at the end of the age, we are told of the sealing of one hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

### **Revelation 7:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. <sup>2</sup>Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:*

If God the Father and the Lamb were not still the God and Lord of the children of Israel, why would the Lamb of God be standing on Mount Zion with the one hundred and forty-four thousand of the tribes of the children of Israel with His Father's name written on their heads? Would it not be of the church or whatever new name some are being led to believe?

### **Revelation 14:1-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup>They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

God remains the God of Israel and His people are the children of Israel who have followed His instructions to repent and be converted into the kingdom of God. The period of time in question in the above passage of Scripture is the appointed time of redemption during the restoration of all things.

### THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD STILL APPLY

We know the Lord did not come to destroy what is written in the books of the law and the prophets. The Lord came to fulfil what was written about Him in these books. Some are led to believe they do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God. If we have to repent because of transgression should we continue in transgression after repentance? Is it not the laws and commandments of God that give us the knowledge of sin?

- Because we have been justified, are we now free to kill because we are under grace?
- Because we have been justified, are we now free to defile ourselves with mankind because we are under grace?
- Because we have been justified, are we now free to eat swine flesh because we are under grace?
- Because we have been justified, are we now free to defile the Sabbath day since we are under grace?
- Because we have been justified, are we now allowed to worship idols since we are under grace?
- Because we are under grace, is it right for us to covet a neighbour's house, wife, car, child, or job?

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

How can we? God forbid. If we continue to do the very things that led us to repentance does that not make us hypocrites? The laws and commandments of God are in place to guide us into righteousness of God, not what we believe is right.

### **1 John 2:1-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. <sup>3</sup>Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup>He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

<sup>7</sup>Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. <sup>8</sup>Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup>He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

If we profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ but hate a brother or sister then the truth is not in us; we are in darkness because the Lord has said we should not hate a brother or sister.

### **James 2:8-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well; <sup>9</sup>but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup>For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The kingdom of God is governed by the ten commandments. If we break any one of them - we have broken all of them if we do not repent. The Lord is merciful and will forgive our transgressions if we repent of them in sincerity, and if we do not continue in sin.

### **Romans 6:15-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This passage of Scripture concludes the fact that the people of God, the children of Israel, are to keep the laws and commandments of God today.

### **Revelation 22:12-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." <sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

## **ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY**

---

Those who do the commandments of God will have the right to the tree of life. Therefore, the laws and commandments of God are the foundation of righteousness.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Eight

### WHAT HAS CHANGED

There are many precepts and statutes which the children of Israel of the Old Testament had to adhere to, which the body of Christ do not have to keep today because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And because God is a Spirit and He seeks those who worship Him in spirit and truth, the whole dynamic of a believer has to change. The Lord Jesus Christ brought that change to light.

### THE FULFILMENT OF THE PASSOVER

The Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfil what was written of Him in the books of the law and prophets and the Psalms. He did not come to destroy the books of the law and prophets according to the Holy Scripture.

#### **Luke 24:44-45** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

John the Baptist testified that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

#### **John 1:29-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptising with water."*

After the Lord had been crucified and resurrected from the dead, He told Mary not to cling on Him because He had not gone to God the Father with His blood offering for our sins:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **John 20:16-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to <sup>l</sup>Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

The apostle Paul was inspired to give us the reason why the Lord had to ascend to God the Father before He was taken up into heaven:

### **Hebrews 10:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. <sup>2</sup>For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. <sup>3</sup>But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup>For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

This passage of Scripture is addressing the Passover, in which the High Priest goes into the Most Holy Place once a year to offer a sacrifice - first for his sin, and then for the sins of the children of Israel. But it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away our sins, that is why the Lord had to suffer for our sins:

### **Hebrews 10:5-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup>In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "

<sup>8</sup>Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup>And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*forever, sat down at the right hand of God,<sup>13</sup> from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

To further expound on this, we have to understand that:

### **Hebrews 9:21-28** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup> Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. <sup>22</sup> And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

*<sup>23</sup> Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup> not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— <sup>26</sup> He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

How awesome - the wisdom of God. According to the law of God, without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin, hence the reason for animal sacrifice in the Old Testament. This actually goes back to the days of Adam and Eve. But the Lord has entered the Most Holy Place in heaven to appear before God for us. Because He entered into the Most Holy Place and offered Himself for our sins - there is no longer any need for animal sacrifice. As you can see, Christ did not replace the Passover with something else but He was the Passover Lamb and He is now the high priest of the children of Israel in heaven before God the Father. The law of God is not only about the ten commandments and all the other laws we have been given to adhere to. The law of God is about the whole concept of the kingdom of God. This is why it took the life of the Son of God to restore what was broken.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL HAD TO BE CONVERTED TO BE SAVED

The Lord came to save the house of Israel from their sins. According to Scripture, the Lord died for the sins of the world and anyone who believes in the gospel of the kingdom of God will be saved. To believe is not just lip service, which many seem to offer. We have to become doers of the word. When the Lord started His ministry, He preached to the Jews saying:

#### **Mark 1:14-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

During His ministry He reiterated to the Jews in Judea and to every soul alive today:

#### **Luke 13:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?"*

If we do not repent we are certainly going to perish. At the end of His ministry, when the Lord had completed the duties God the Father had set before Him, He said to His disciples:

#### **Luke 24:46-48** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things."*

The word of repentance that the Lord gave His disciples to preach to the children of Israel was first given as a sermon by the apostle Peter on the Feast of Pentecost:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

**Acts 2:36-38** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* <sup>37</sup> *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* <sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Peter was addressing the house of Israel, not just the Jews. But there was more to come. A few days later the Lord inspired the apostle Peter to add another important requirement to enter the kingdom of God:

**Acts 3:18-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> *But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.* <sup>19</sup> *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,* <sup>20</sup> *and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,* <sup>21</sup> *whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Furthermore, the apostle Peter was sent to the Gentiles to preach the same message of repentance:

**Acts 10:44-48** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.* <sup>45</sup> *And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.* <sup>46</sup> *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*

*Then Peter answered,* <sup>47</sup> *“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptised who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”* <sup>48</sup> *And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.*

This is the way to the kingdom of God which the Lord has set before both the Jews and the Gentiles. When anyone, being a Jew or Gentile, follows the instruction, repent from their evil ways, are converted and then baptised, they are then adopted into the house of Israel, of which the Lord is the High Priest:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Ephesians 2:11-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.<sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.<sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

It is important to set a foundation about the house of Israel at this stage. Jacob, the grandson of Abraham - whose name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. When the twelve tribes of Israel settled in the Promised Land, the Lord threw ten of the tribes out of the Promised Land because of persistent transgression of His laws and commandments. Only the Jews, some of the Levites and the tribe of Benjamin where left in the land. Those who were left obeyed the commandments of God.

From the day the Spirit of God was given to men, the way to the kingdom of God was opened to both the Jews, who obeyed the commandments of God, and the Gentiles. The people of God, who as we know was the house of Israel, became spiritual because of the Spirit of God. Everyone who professes to be the Lord's must acquire the Spirit of God to be converted into the house of God, which as we now know is the church that Christ built.

### **THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

When Adam and Eve fell - they lost the Spirit of God and they became carnal. From that time forth, every human on Earth has been carnal except one. The Lord Jesus Christ came and opened the way for us to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. It is

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

critical to have the Spirit of God, because it is the Spirit of God that empowers all those who have been justified to do the will of God. This was a promise of God the Father:

### **Luke 24:48-49** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>48</sup>And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

### **Acts 1:4-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup>And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup>for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."<sup>6</sup> Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The Spirit of God was poured out on the day of Pentecost:

### **Acts 2:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

It is crucial to acknowledge the importance of the Spirit of God, from which everything stems and without which - everything we do is vain.

### **Romans 8:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>that the righteous requirement of*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

*the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

This is because the law became a spiritual entity since the Lord Jesus Christ magnified the law:

**Matthew 5:19-20** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup> Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

The Pharisees were self-righteous and did not keep the commandments of God. The Lord went on in the rest of this chapter to perfect the laws and commandments of God; defining what is done physically and what happens in the spirit of men.

The Spirit of God is the most fundamental component of a believer's life. It is the Spirit that empowers the believer to do the commandments of God. The Spirit of God has not fulfilled the law in the believer but empowers the believer to be able to keep the law. It is the Spirit that guides us into all truth, not forgetting the fact that it is the Spirit of God which will spring up into everlasting life. Just how important is the Spirit of God to us?

**Romans 8:9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

Without the Spirit of Christ no one can be Christ's. In other words, if you do not have the Spirit of God dwelling in you - you cannot be part of the Body of Christ (the church). This church is also the house of God, which is the house of Israel.

# ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

## Chapter Nine

### CONCLUSION

Before the foundation of the heavens and the Earth, God the Father had established a well-orchestrated master plan for the redemption of man. It started in the Garden of Eden after the fall of Adam and Eve.

#### **Genesis 3:22-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

We now know that the way to the tree of life is through the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that the cherubim and the flaming sword have a deeper meaning than we can imagine. This awesome power to protect the path to the tree of life was not just there to prevent man from reaching out to take hold of the fruits of tree of life, but was also to prevent the serpent from destroying the path that started with Seth the son of Adam. The path continued through Noah:

#### **Genesis 6:8-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup> And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

*<sup>11</sup> The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup> So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

*<sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.*

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

The path was firmly established with Abraham, whose descendants became the house of Israel and his seed - who we now know is the Lord Jesus Christ:

### **Galatians 3:15-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. <sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

The Lord is the Son of God who came down to Earth with the truth. The Lord said that He is the way, the truth and the life:

### **John 14:6-7** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup> "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

In this study, we have explored the meaning of the way, the truth and the life. The Lord opened the path to the tree of life to the Jews first:

### **Acts 3:19-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. <sup>22</sup> For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.

Then to the Gentiles:

### **Acts 10:44-48** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Both Jews and Gentiles are reconciled to God by the blood of Christ:

### **Ephesians 2:14-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The foundation of the house of God is built on the information given by God through the apostles and prophets. They have not said that the people of God have changed or the church has been replaced by the children of Israel.

### **Ephesians 2:11-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The above passage of Scripture confirms that both the Jews and Gentiles are converted into the spiritual house of God by the Spirit of God and they remain the children of Israel. In the book of Revelation, the one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed are the children of Israel. This is a prophecy still to be fulfilled at the end of the age:

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

### **Revelation 7:3-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."<sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

In chapter fourteen of the book of Revelation, we see the same one hundred and forty-four thousand with the Lamb:

### **Revelation 14:1** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

If the Lord had changed the identity of His people, they would surely not be called the children of Israel at the end of the age. Furthermore, the name of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel will not appear on the gates of New Jerusalem, which will descend out of heaven from God at the appointed time in the future:

### **Revelation 21:12** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup>Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The Lord has said:

### **Hebrews 8:10-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup>None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

Once again this is a prophecy that will be fulfilled in the future. Although the Lord has been sacrificed - not everyone on Earth today knows the Lord, and the law of God is certainly not in the hearts of all His people. The Lord is saying that there is a coming when everyone on Earth will know Him and He will put His laws in our minds and right them in our hearts. No one shall teach his neighbour or brother to know the Lord because everyone will have

## ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY

---

knowledge of God. As you can see clearly, the people of God will be called the house of Israel. This again means the people of God remain the house of Israel.

The prophecy the angel gave Mary stipulated that her Son will reign over the house of Jacob forever. We know Jacob was also called Israel:

### **Luke 1:30-33** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

At His death, He was called the King of the Jews:

### **John 19:19-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup> Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was:*

*JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

*<sup>20</sup> Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. <sup>21</sup> Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews." ' " <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."*

If the Lord Jesus Christ is King of the Jews and, as we are aware, the Jews are one of the tribes of the children of Israel, is it not a fact that the people of God will still be known as the children of Israel? If that is the case, then we have to be very aware of this prophecy and all other prophecies at the end of the age because it concerns all those who believe:

### **1 Peter 4:17-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup> For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

## **ISRAEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: TODAY**

---

If judgement begins in the house of God, which is also known as the church and the Body of Christ, what will happen to those who have chosen not to believe the gospel of the kingdom of God? This is the reality we all face. We have been given the word of truth and the Spirit of God to guide us into the truth. The path has been set before us, but we must walk according to the commandments of the Lord our God - not according to the commandments of men.